

## Selecting a Designer for Your Septic System

The North Andover Board of Health wishes to assist its residents in achieving successful outcomes to their septic system design plans. We are producing this fact sheet in order to help guide you through this process.

A few key points for you as the property owner to consider are:

- The rules which govern our actions are located in the State of Massachusetts regulations known as “Title 5” and the Town of North Andover Board of Health Septic System Regulations. You are welcome to review both at our office or online however, you will find that they contain great technical detail and are not generally geared towards the average reader. The Health Department staff would be more than happy to meet with you to review the procedures that will need to be followed.
- A key decision for you to make will be the selection of an engineer or sanitarian to undertake the design. Based on our experience, we encourage you to interview the person who will be doing the work at your property – like any profession there are a range of skills which people possess, some of which may work well for you and your needs while others may not. We encourage you to meet with the actual licensed engineer or sanitarian, and not their representative to make sure their skills and experience meets your expectations. You may also ask friends or other professionals for their recommendations. The town does not control these persons as they are licensed by the state and therefore, unfortunately, we are unable to suggest to you any one person or firm over another. This is an important decision for you to make and we encourage you to be thoughtful in this selection process as we have seen residents become frustrated with poor choices of engineers or sanitarians.
- A list of MA PE’s or Sanitarians who have done business in North Andover in the past 3 years can be found on the Health Department’s website under “Septic System – For Homeowners”.

Please note that you are not limited to our list of engineers or sanitarians as anyone who is licensed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts may perform the needed design work.

Please visit this website for helpful information regarding Septic Systems/Title 5  
<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/wastewater/septic-systems-title-5.html>

The North Andover Board of Health hopes this information helps you get started in the right direction of upgrading your septic system. Doing so will help us build a healthier community to live in.